

OBC President's Report – OBC AGM December 11, 2019

So much happened in BC orienteering in 2019! Before touching on that, however, I first want to acknowledge all the excellent Officers and Directors who have been serving you, the members, through their work on the OBC Board this year – Robyn Rennie as Secretary, and Don Haliburton as Treasurer, together with the Directors-at-large – Erica Lay, Jeremy Gordon, Ross Burnett, Linda Hildebrandt, Chris Ling, David Bakker, Jackie Bonn, Chris Bullock and Abbigail May. Both Robyn and Abbi will be retiring from the Board this year, and I thank them both very heartily for their contributions to the OBC programming.

The highlight of any year of orienteering in BC is the **BC Orienteering Championships**, which were hosted this year in the Kimberley/Cranbrook area by the Kootenay Orienteering and Trail-running Club (KOC). Thanks to their hard work, we enjoyed fine terrain, excellent courses and a very entertaining banquet evening, at which OBC officially recognized John Rance (GVOC) as the 2019 **Volunteer of the Year**. The BCOC2019 events doubled as the **Western Canadian Orienteering Championships** this year, and KOC will be welcoming the orienteering world once again next year, when they host the **Canadian Orienteering Championships**. Organizing three championships in two years is a truly impressive feat!

OBC has been hard at work improving our “organizational readiness”. One outcome of the 2018 viaSport triennial evaluation of all their funded PSOs was identification of ‘organizational deficiencies’ in many of the smaller sports organizations, including OBC. ViaSport subsequently decided to offer professional assistance for reviewing and updating our policies and operational practices. This work has been underway throughout the year, with several of the OBC Directors playing key roles. David Bakker has been leading the on-line membership database project; Linda Hildebrandt is developing a risk management policy and related resources; Erica Lay has led a team charged with building a new OBC Strategic Plan; Don Haliburton is leading a group to develop promotional materials and related resources, and Ross Burnett is analyzing our Bylaws and Policies to clarify the OBC membership structure and Board operations.

Another identified issue for OBC has been achieving better communication between OBC and its members. One effort to address this has been the revival of our provincial orienteering newsletter - *Due West* - after a ten year hiatus. Communication will also be improved with development of the proposed province-wide on-line membership sign-up system. Once implemented, this should make life easier for the various club membership teams. It will also provide OBC with a direct communication channel to its members, and the creation of a complete BC membership database will allow better tracking and analysis of membership patterns for the clubs.

One goal that has engaged all the clubs this year is ensuring that they have sufficient qualified Officials to enable them to deliver high quality O events, which is a legal requirement for our liability insurance coverage. Marg Ellis has been enormously helpful in this arena, mentoring candidate officials through the certification process on one hand, while assisting Orienteering Canada with updating the Officials training manuals on the other. We owe her a big vote of thanks for all this hard work.

Looking forward, we still have more to do in strengthening and growing our provincial organization, and ensuring that our sport continues to deliver a high quality orienteering experience for every participant. I am convinced that the various directions we are now pursuing will do just that.

Brian Ellis

President, OBC